

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01

ACDA-05 IO-10 MC-02 INRE-00 /080 W

----- 043802

O R 211815Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 1365

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1923

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SP, MO

SUBJ: MOROCCO

1. DURING CALL MARCH 21 ON UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS VIRIA COVERING OTHER MATTERS, HE RAISED WITH ME THE QUESTION OF MOROCCO. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATED FOR THE BRIEFINGS WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE GOS BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND IN MADRID WITH RESPECT TO US ARMS SALES TO MOROCCO. GOS FULLY AGREED THAT AN AMERICAN PRESENCE IN MOROCCO WAS DESIREABLE.

2. SPANISH PRESS HAD REPORTED WITHIN LAST TWO DAYS THAT AN ARMS SALES PROGRAM FOR MOROCCO HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS, AND GOS WAS NOT SURE WHETHER PROGRAM PRESENTED TO CONGRESS REPRESENTED SOMETHING IN ADDITION TO WHAT GOS HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN TOLD. I TOLD ROVIRA THAT I BELIEVED THAT PRESS STORIES RELATED ONLY TO REQUIREMENT OF US LAW THAT ARMS SALES PROGRAMS ABOVE A CERTAIN FIGURE BE PRESENTED AND LIE BEFORE CONGRESS FOR 20 DAYS TO ENABLE CONGRESS TO COMMENT IF IT SO CHOOSES. I DID NOT BELIEVE THAT ANYTHING NEW WAS INVOLVED. OUR PREVIOUS BRIEFINGS SHOWED OUR DESIRE TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH GOS ON THIS MATTER. HOWEVER, I PROMISED THAT I WOULD INQUIRE AND
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LET HIM KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. ROVIRA WENT ON TO SAY THAT GOS HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT MOROCCANS HAD MOVED TROOPS INTO SOUTHERN MOROCCAN PROVINCE OF TARFAYA. HE ASKED WHETHER WE HAD ANY INFORMATION AS TO THIS MOVE AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE. I AGAIN SAID THAT I HAD NO INFORMATION, BUT WOULD INQUIRE.

4. ROVIRA INDICATED THAT PRESENTATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE ON SPANISH SAHARA WERE NOW READY AND WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO ICJ ON MARCH 27. GOS WAS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED AS TO WHAT MOROCCAN ATTITUDE WOULD BE IN WAKE OF THESE SUBMISSIONS. HE FELT THAT ALGERIA WAS A USEFUL RESTRAINING INFLUENCE ON MOROCCO AND HE WAS INCLINED TO FEEL THAT THERE WAS LITTLE SUPPORT IN NORTH AFRICA OR ARAB WORLD FOR A FURTHER POINT OF TENSION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

5. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT OUR PRVIOUS FULL BRIEFINGS OF THE GOS ON OUR ARMS PROGRAM FOR MOROCCO HAVE BEEN VERY USEFUL IN CALMING THEIR FEARS.

SINCE DRAFTING THE ABOVE, WE HAVE RECEIVED STATE 64026 AND THIS INFORMATION WILL BE CONVEYED TO MFA. HOWEVER, I SHOULD STILL APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE WITH RESPECT TO QUESTION RAISED IN PARAGRAPH 3. SINCE I SHALL BE SEEING THE ARMY MINISTER ON MONDAY MORNING, IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR ME TO HAVE THE INFORMATION BY THAT TIME.
STABLER

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